

REMARKS

Status of the Application

Prior to the entry of this amendment, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11-15, 20, 21 and 24-27 were pending in this application. The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,097,707 to Kammerer ("Kammerer"), objected to claims 12, 14 and 15 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and allowed claims 20, 21 and 24-26.

The present amendment amends independent claim 1 and cancels claims 12 and 27. Therefore, claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 11, 13-15, 20, 21 and 24-26 are presented for examination in this amendment. No new matter is added by the amendment to claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

In the Office Action independent claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Kammerer. The Office Action objected to dependent claims 12, 14 and 15, but found that these claims would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim. To expedite prosecution of the present application and without consideration as to the merits of the Section 102 rejection of independent claim 1 over the Kammerer reference, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 so that the amended claim includes the limitations of dependent claim 12. As such, Applicants believe that independent claim 1, as amended, and the claims depending from the amended claim are patentable over Kammerer.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious Applicant's invention, as recited in each of claims. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

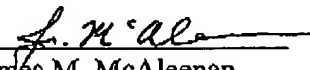
Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be

considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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